on the photosensitive surface, the circuitry determines that a portion of the sub-region lies outside the spot to which the laser pulse is focused and the laser is not energized by the controller.

22. (Amended) A laser system according to claim 21 wherein the circuitry processes signals from the quadrature detector to determine whether a contrasted sub-region imaged on the quadrature detector is substantially centered within the spot to which the laser pulse is focused.

23. (Twice amended) A laser system according to claim 21 wherein the circuitry uses signals from the quadrature detector to determine whether a contrasted sub-region imaged on the quadrature detector is larger than a predetermined minimum size consistent with the size distribution of areas occupied on the skin by features to be treated.

25. (Amended) A laser system according to claim 24 wherein if the photosensitive surface generates signals responsive to a contrasted sub-region imaged on the photosensitive surface, the circuitry determines that a portion of the sub-region lies outside of the spot to which the laser pulse is focused and the laser is not energized by the controller.

57. (New) A method for treating a feature on the skin of a patient with laser light comprising:

acquiring an image of the skin with an imaging system comprising circuitry that processes the acquired image to locate the feature and generates a signal when the feature is located; and

controlling a laser responsive to the signal generated by the imaging system to focus a pulse of laser light energy to a spot that covers substantially completely the located feature.

58. (New) A method according to claim 57 wherein the feature is a hair follicle.

59. (New) A method according to claim 58 wherein the energy is sufficient to cauterize the hair follicle.

REMARKS

Claims 1-42, of which claims 1 and 42 are independent claims, are presently pending in the application. Claims 1-42 stand rejected. In the present amendment claims 8 and 42 are